

Listing of the Claims

1. ***(Currently Amended)*** A device for transporting a horizontal stack, the stack formed in a gathering device with upright, lined-up signatures, from a stack support to an intermediate deposit, the device comprising:

a ~~horizontally and vertically displaceable~~ clamp arranged above the stack support, wherein the clamp ~~compresses~~ functions to compress the stack ~~[[at ends of the stack]]~~ to be strapped and ~~transfers a~~ wherein said clamp can be moved in horizontal and vertical directions and is constructed to transport the strapped stack from the stack support to ~~an adjacent~~ an intermediate deposit.

2. ***(Original)*** The device according to claim 1, wherein the clamp comprises two clamping jaws, and the device further comprises a support frame wherein the clamp can be displaced along the support frame in a first conveying direction from the stack support to the intermediate deposit.

3. ***(Original)*** The device according to claim 2, wherein the intermediate deposit is an automatic palletizer.

4. ***(Original)*** The device according to claim 2, further comprising a movable bridge support, wherein the clamp is suspended from the movable bridge support and can be displaced transversely to the first conveying direction along the movable bridge support.

5. ***(Original)*** The device according to claim 2, further comprising a vertical swiveling post, around which the clamp swivels.

6. ***(Previously Amended)*** The device according to claim 4, wherein ends of the movable bridge support are provided with roller supports, which are connected to the support frame.

7. ***(Original)*** The device according to claim 6, wherein the movable bridge support is operatively connected to at least one endlessly circulating traction means.

8. ***(Original)*** The device according to claim 7, further comprising: two traction means for moving the movable bridge support along the roller supports; and a motor having a joint drive shaft attached to the support frame, wherein the traction means are toothed belts, which are operatively connected via the joint drive shaft.

9. **(Original)** The device according to claim 4, further comprising a support that extends below the movable bridge support in a transverse direction to the first conveying direction and that is operable in a vertical direction, wherein the clamping jaws of the clamp are attached so as to be adjustable to the support.

10. **(Original)** The device according to claim 9, wherein the support is connected to an operating device that is attached to the movable bridge support and is height-adjustable.

11. **(Original)** The device according to claim 9, wherein at least one of the clamping jaws of the clamp on the support is movable.

12. **(Original)** The device according to claim 11, wherein the clamping jaw is positioned opposite the movable clamping jaw, and is assigned to the stack end opposite the stack forming direction.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A device for transporting a horizontal stack, formed in a gathering device with upright, lined-up signatures, from a stack support to an intermediate deposit, the device comprising:

a ~~horizontally and vertically movable~~ clamp arranged above the stack support, wherein the clamp ~~comprises functions to compress the stack at ends to be strapped of the stack and transfers the~~ wherein said clamp can be moved in horizontal and vertical directions and is constructed to transport the strapped stack from the stack support via an adjacent strapping station to a following intermediate deposit.

14. **(Original)** The device according to claim 13, wherein the clamp comprises two clamping jaws, and the device further comprises a support frame wherein the clamp can be displaced along the support frame in a first conveying direction from the stack support to the intermediate deposit.

15. **(Original)** The device according to claim 14, wherein the intermediate deposit is an automatic palletizer.

16. **(Original)** The device according to claim 14, further comprising a movable bridge support, wherein the clamp is suspended from the movable bridge support and can be displaced transversely to the first conveying direction along the movable bridge support.

17. **(Original)** The device according to claim 14, further comprising a vertical swiveling post, around which the clamp swivels.

18. **(Previously Amended)** The device according to claim 16, wherein ends of the movable bridge support are provided with roller supports, which are connected to the support frame.

19. **(Original)** The device according to claim 18, wherein the movable bridge support is operatively connected to at least one endlessly circulating traction means.

20. **(Original)** The device according to claim 19, further comprising: two traction means for moving the movable bridge support along the roller supports; and a motor having a joint drive shaft attached to the support frame, wherein the traction means are toothed belts, which are operatively connected via the joint drive shaft.

21. **(Original)** The device according to claim 16, further comprising a support that extends below the movable bridge support in a transverse direction to the first conveying direction and that is operable in a vertical direction, wherein the clamping jaws of the clamp are attached so as to be adjustable to the support.

22. **(Original)** The device according to claim 21, wherein the support is connected to an operating device that is attached to the movable bridge support and is height-adjustable.

23. **(Original)** The device according to claim 21, wherein at least one of the clamping jaws of the clamp on the support is movable.

24. **(Original)** The device according to claim 23, wherein the clamping jaw is positioned opposite the movable clamping jaw, and is assigned to the stack end opposite the stack forming direction.